

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 08429 201231Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /165 W

----- 036839

R 171535Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1480

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, OAU, NI, XF

SUBJECT: NIGERIA AND MIDDLE EAST

REFS: LAGOS 8305; LAGOS 8308 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FMG PRO-ARAB TILT STABLE PAST FEW DAYS.
MRS. MEIR HAS REPLIED TO GOWON, BUT NO NIGERIAN REACTIONS
YET REPORTED. END SUMMARY

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER MOVEMENT DURING PAST FEW
DAYS IN FMG POSITION VIS-A-VIS ME SITUATION. PRESS AND
RADION HAVE BEEN PREDOMINANTLY PRO-ARAB, NOTABLY IN NORTH,
WITH NEW NIGERIAN AND OBSERVER LEADING CALL FOR BREAK IN
FMG-GOI RELATIONS. SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS HAVE CARRIED MORE
BALANCED EDITORIALS URGING UNSC ACTION, WHILE AWOLOWO-
INSPIRED TRIBUNE URGED FMG MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH GOI
IN ORDER HAVE POSSIBILITY OF COUNSELING BOTH SIDES IN
CONFLICT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 08429 201231Z

2. ISREALI AMBASSADOR BEN YAACOV TOLD AMBASSADOR

OCTOBER 17 THAT HE WAS HEARTENED BY TRIBUNE EDITORIAL AND FEELS HOSTILE PRESS HAVING NO IMMEDIATE INFLUENCE ON FMG POLICY. HE RECALLED THAT PRESS WAS UNANIMOUS

IN URGING RUPTURE IN RELATIONS FOLLOWING EBAN STATEMENT ON BIAFRA IN JANUARY 1970 AND SUGGESTED THEIR DISCORDANT VOICES UNLIKELY MAKE MUSH IMPACT NOW.

3. BEN YAACOV IS HOPEFUL THAT FMG TILT CAN ALSO BE CHECKED BY RECENT ISRAELI REPLIES TO DEMARCHE WHICH GOWON MADE TO HIM OCTOBER 12 (LAGOS 8308 NOTAL). ISRAELI FONMIN EBAN MET WITH FMG COMMISSIONER EXSTAFF ARIKPO OCTOBER 15 AND AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY DELIVERED LETTER FROM MRS. MEIR TO GOWON. LETTER EMPHASIZED VALUE WHICH ISRAELIS PLACE ON NIGERIAN COUNSEL AND ROLE WHICH GOI BELIEVES NIGERIA COULD PLAY IN ME SITUATION BY CONTINUING PRESENT POLICY OF HAVING FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS. BEN YAACOV SAID RESPONSE PARTICULARLY TIMELY, AS GOWON PHONED ARIKPO IN NEW YORK DURING LATTER'S MEETING WITH EBAN TO COMPLAIN OF NON-RESPONSE TO THAT POINT BY ISRAELIS TO HIS MESSAGE.

4. IN WAKE THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, BEN YAACOV FEELS THAT ISRAELI POSITION HAS AT LEAST NOT DETERIORATED FURTHER IN NIGERIA. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIVE STABILIZATION OF BATTLE LINES IS PRESUMABLY PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ISRAELI MILITARY SUCCESS COULD STILL TILT NIGERIANS TO POINT OF NO RETURN.
REINHARDT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS08429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS REINHARDT
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaatp.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAGOS 8305; LAGOS 8308 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIA AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, NI, XF, IS, UN, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005